

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mark Pollock, City Manager

CC: Clawson City Council
Jon Kingsepp, City Attorney

FROM: Harry C. Anderson, Chief of Police

DATE: July 11, 2014

RE: July 4th 2014 Report



The Clawson Police Department is ordinarily staffed with 17 sworn personnel. On July 4, 2014, the Clawson Police Department had 15 available sworn Officers to work the July 4th Parade and fireworks detail due to one (1) Officer retiring and one (1) Officer on injury leave. On July 4th all Officers not scheduled to work the Day Shift were required to report for duty at 8:00 AM. The Officers remained on their posts until the end of the parade at approximately 11:30 AM. A post was maintained at Custer and Elmwood to control access into the City Park and limit access to those with handicap permits and vendors from 10:00 AM until approximately 11:00 PM. Officers not scheduled to work the Afternoon Shift were required to report for duty at 6:30 PM, and remain on duty until approximately 12:00 Midnight for the fireworks detail.

Every year thousands of people come into the City of Clawson to observe the parade and fireworks and participate in the Independence Day festivities. In order to keep the public safe, Clawson Police Department utilizes the services of many neighboring departments to assist under a mutual aid agreement. This year was no different. The following Departments assisted us in handling the event:

- Troy Police Department
- Royal Oak Police Department
- Oakland County Sheriff Department
- Michigan State Police
- Hazel Park Police Department
- Alliance Mobile Health

On July 4, 2014, a K-9 Officer from the Oakland County Sheriff Department performed an explosive sweep of the staging area of the parade at the Clawson Sales Center. After that sweep, the K-9 would sweep the parade route in order to detect possible explosives. At approximately 9:20 AM, the OCSD K-9 alerted to the engine compartment of a vehicle that was going to pull a float in the parade. The person who rented the vehicle from Home Depot that morning was identified and he provided

paperwork in proof of the rental. The truck had an open cargo compartment and visible interior. A Clawson Fire Department representative inspected the truck and did not observe anything suspicious. Contact was made with an MSP Bomb Squad Technician. The Technician advised that it did not appear to be a situation requiring evacuation and possible panic of those in attendance. The parade participants were allowed to clear the lot in an orderly manner and the immediate area of the truck was closed off until the MSP Technician arrived. He arrived, checked the truck and found it to have been a false hit.

Just prior to the parade start, Officers were dispatched to a personal injury crash on Crooks north of 14 Mile. A female had a medical issue and ran into a Troy Fire Department truck on the way to the parade. The female driver was transported to the hospital where she was treated for her medical condition. During the parade, Officers were dispatched to the area of 14 Mile and Manitou on a report of a child struck by a float. Investigation revealed that the child was not injured. At the end of the parade, Officers assisted in locating a missing 11 year old.

At approximately 12:30 PM, Detective Mills received credible information of a threat of violence to occur during the fireworks at the City Park. The report was that two large groups of teenagers were going to fight in the area of Schalm Elementary during the fireworks. Detective Mills found over 200 Twitter contacts regarding the violence. Some of the reports implied that guns were going to be involved. Lt. Sarvello was contacted and both Detectives were instructed to investigate the matter and try to determine subjects involved in order to intervene to stop the threat. Investigation revealed that the possible fight was going to involve two groups who had been involved in a fight on June 26th after the Red Run Fireworks in Royal Oak. The suspects were identified and the main suspects involved were located and interviewed. Both groups were advised that their identities were known and an attempt was made to discourage them from coming to the fireworks. Pictures of the suspects were obtained and distributed to law enforcement personnel at a briefing held prior to the fireworks detail.

Sgt. Scott notified area Departments and advised them of possible trouble at our fireworks. Michigan State Police committed to having eight (8) Troopers respond if needed, and Troy PD committed to having 13 Officers respond if needed. Royal Oak PD and Madison Heights PD also reported that they could send an additional 10-15 Officers if requested.

The original Fireworks detail consisted of (15) Clawson Officers, (1) MSP K-9, (5) Hazel Park Reserve Officers, (2) Oakland County Sheriff Deputies in a vehicle, (2) Oakland County Sheriff Deputies on horses, and (4) Alliance Ambulance personnel on bikes.

At approximately 7:00 PM, one of the groups identified as possible fight participants arrived and began to congregate at Schalm Elementary. A group of approximately 20 suspects were confronted and identified. Two (2) Clawson Officers were assigned to monitor the group for the duration of the evening, with instructions to arrest any of them if they committed an offense. At approximately 9:15 PM, the same group of suspects

gathered in the firework safety area in the City Park. Sgt. Scott contacted the Michigan State Police Metro North Post and they sent Troopers to assist with the group who were becoming unruly. Five (5) Troopers assisted Clawson Officers in the ejection of two (2) of the suspects in the group who had become disorderly.

From approximately 10:30 PM until approximately 11:30 PM, after the fireworks display, twelve (12) Clawson, Troy, and Royal Oak Officers directed the traffic out of the park and surrounding area, while other Officers assisted in crowd control.

On July 4, 2014, between 3:00 PM and 12:00 Midnight, there were a total of nine (9) fireworks complaints called in. Seven (7) of those calls reporting fireworks came between 10:52 PM and 11:43 PM, when vehicular and pedestrian traffic was at its peak, making it extremely difficult for service car Officers to respond to. With everything that occurred during the 2014 July 4th celebration, the Officers involved worked hard and kept the public safe.